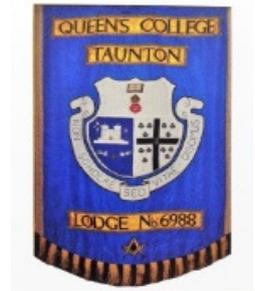


QUEEN'S COLLEGE, TAUNTON LODGE NO.6988 2018 REVIEW



<https://www.queenscollegelodge.co.uk/>

<https://twitter.com/queens6988>

December 2017

A brief business meeting at which David Hanmer (former parent) was proposed as a future new member, and Philip Waterman (former parent) and Dr Keith Pickavance (husband of OQ Liz Killick – 1990-97) were welcomed as 'joining' members.



Joined by our ladies and other guests we received a talk on Freemasonry and the American Dollar Bill followed by a very enjoyable Christmas lunch.



A total of £1,800 was raised on the day adding to the £1,200 already raised earlier in the year. A 'matched funding' contribution of £600 from

Province was a very welcome increase, enabling WM Geoffrey Dolling to hand over £3,600 in two equal amounts of £1,800 to Macmillan Cancer and Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy, the Master's Charity, at a presentation ceremony in March 2018 at the Beacon Centre, Musgrove Park Hospital.

March 2018



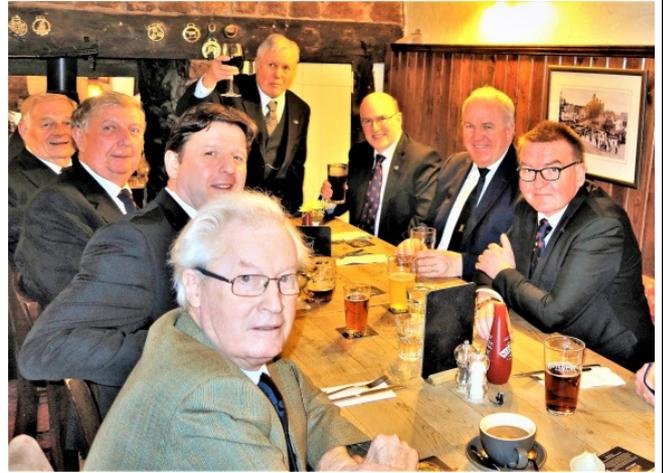
While snow was falling all around, WBro Geoffrey Dolling installed his successor WBro Alan Watkins in an exemplary manner under the watchful eye of our Deputy Provincial Grand Master and 60 brethren



April 2018 - 'From Labour to Refreshment'



Following the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge on 5th April, Queen's brethren adjourned to the Lamb, Axbridge where they were surprised and delighted to be joined by WBro Ian Gibson (below).



Sadly, Ian was not to be with us much longer and in July he lost his fight against cancer. At a Thanksgiving Service, many current and past members of Queen's Lodge and wives joined family and friends to say 'farewell' to a very

well respected and much loved friend. Peter Whittingham (OQ 1950-56) gave the eulogy.



In 2015, aged 80, Ian (left) received a certificate marking his 50 years as a member of Queen's Lodge.

April 2018 – St George's Day

A St George's Celebration Lunch was held on Sunday 22nd April



at Taunton Masonic Centre where we took two tables. A raffle raised £350 in aid of Taunton Association for the Homeless boosted with a similar sum from Province.



A St George's Parade passed the front door of the Masonic Hall which many of us turned out to support.



May 2018

David Hanmer was initiated by his Proposer, the Worshipful Master, Alan Watkins.

David was passed at the October meeting.

August 2018

The Taunton Flower Show - *the oldest in Europe and second oldest in the world* - celebrated its 187th year. Taunton Freemasons used the Provincial Gazebo to meet many of the 15,000 who visited the show. Thanks to [WBros Keith Pickavance](#) and [Geoff Perrin](#) who represented Queen's Lodge.



September 2018 – Federation of School Lodges



This year it was the turn of Taunton School Lodge to host the annual meeting. This coincided with celebrations for their 50th anniversary marked by the presence of special guest Sir David Hugh Wootton, Assistant Grand Master.

It seems some from Queen's Lodge even managed to reach the bar!



Also in September, Bro Dr Lindsay Edmunds (Senior Deacon of Queen's Lodge) was invested as Master of Tivoli Lodge in Weston Super Mare. After the ceremony, Queen's Master, WBro Alan Watkins congratulated WBro Lindsay, supported by 8 members of Queen's Lodge with their wives

October 2018

The Somerset Masonic Friendship Association (SMFA) hosted a Lunch at the Taunton Cricket Club to celebrate 250 years of Masonry in Somerset. 'Encouraged' by W Bro Jim Virjee a large group of thirty Queen's Brethren and wives attended.



The Travelling Trowel

At our regular Lodge meeting we received a Travelling Trowel (a symbol of friendship) from Brethren of Royal Philanthropic Lodge Burnham-on-Sea.



Subsequently, on 6th November, a Queen's team led by WBro Geoffrey Dolling passed the Trowel on to the Brethren of St Dunstan's Lodge, Glastonbury.

AND FINALLY.....

"It is that time of year again, where we enjoy the festivities with our families and friends and I wanted to take some time to send a message to all of you. Looking back on a busy 2018, the lodge has been working well with a first and second degree ceremony and I wanted to thank you all for your support and help.

The year is rapidly coming to an end and is hard to believe where the time has gone. We have accomplished so much, excellent ritual, superb charity giving but more than anything we have maintained and built friendships and camaraderie.

My heartfelt thanks to all the Brethren and families who helped in all of our endeavours. Much goes on in the background which doesn't get recognised.

Without them we would not have such a successful and enjoyable lodge. Thank you!

Following in the footsteps of WBro Geoffrey Dolling was a daunting task. Some things went well; some not so well (but were smoothed over by professional Brethren!!!). My personal schedule pulled me in many directions but at all times I had the support of such a wonderful lodge and I'm proud to have been the Master of such a great establishment which radiates true friendship and support.

Queen's Lodge has been so well represented at many Masonic events this year, in particular the SMFA 250th Celebration Lunch where we supported the event with 3 tables (superbly organised by WBro Jim Virjee).

It is not over yet though; Lesley and I look forward to seeing many of you at our traditional Christmas meeting on Saturday the 8th of December, which as ever, I'm sure will be a great event.

In conclusion Lesley and I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and hope that the spirit of Christmas is with all of you, with your families and with your friends."



Best Wishes and Seasons Greetings. *Lesley and Alan Watkins* WM

